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# Climate Change and Civil Society in Africa: A Survey of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance Members

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# CLIMATE CHANGE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN AFRICA

A survey of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance members

**PREPARED FOR COP22 BY**

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# PACJA BACKGROUND

**Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is a continental coalition of Civil Society Organizations, founded in 2008 from diverse backgrounds in Africa.**

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance has emerged as the most vibrant and largest Civil Society platform in climate change and sustainable development, with a membership of more than 1,000 organizations and networks in 45 African countries. The Alliance brings together faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, trusts, foundations, farmers and pastoralists' groups among other sectors.

PACJA aims at unifying and coordinating isolated civil society efforts on climate change advocacy in Africa, so as to ensure that pro-poor and people-centered response measures are given attention as governments in Africa seek to mainstream climate change into national poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies and actions.

In the pursuit of its mandate, PACJA collaborates and encourages strategic alliances with international partners, national governments, regional governmental bodies as well as individuals sharing its aspirations, to build an enhanced African profile that assures the continent's visibility in international climate change dialogue processes.

A journey towards a unified African civil society, which in essence gave forth to the conception and subsequent birth of PACJA, began in the South African city of Johannesburg. Alarmed by the sheer absence of the African civil society voice in international climate change dialogue processes, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Oxfam International organized a workshop whose aim was to facilitate a dialogue among African CSOs to explore ways of working together, in order to have an impact on the post-2012 discussions on climate change regime. This was held on the sidelines of the 12th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Johannesburg, which provided the first opportunity for the African Civil Society to engage with key policy makers in their governments.

After the CSOs workshop, participants joined delegates at the AMCEN conference with a unified agenda and recognition of the need to proactively engage key policy makers on climate change. Inspired by this background, PACJA has convened African Civil Society meetings at the sidelines of subsequent AMCEN consultations, thus making it a traditional component of every process spearheaded by this important environmental stakeholder in Africa. As the first substantive and properly constituted CSOs meeting for climate change in Africa with representation from all sub-regions and sectors, a proposal by a section of participants to name the network was deferred through consensus so as to allow CSOs present to consult, bond together and attract more actors in the process. Participants felt that an effective civil society network could only be possible through a genuinely consultative and all-inclusive process which cultivates the ownership of communities.

In August, 2008, another meeting for the African CSOs working on climate change and sustainable development was facilitated by a coalition of international non-governmental organizations, genuinely concerned about the low level of African CSOs participation in the UNFCCC process. The coalition - the association of 17 development and humanitarian aid organizations in Europe related to the World Council of Churches known as APRODEV, bringing together Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, Diakonia and Finn Church Aid among others, worked with the small team elected in Johannesburg to broaden the participation and ensure that elements lacking in the previous consultation were captured.

The meeting, *“the African civil society climate justice strategy meeting,”* organized on the sidelines of the Accra UNFCCC Climate change talks, not only endorsed the South African initiative, but also moved further to finish part of the unaccomplished business initiated in Johannesburg by unanimously declaring the name of the network as Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). Cognizant of the task ahead and the flight of time on the countdown to Copenhagen, the participants agreed on a plan of action that would eventually ensure that African civil society was effectively facilitated to actively participate in the Bali Roadmap. The five-member Steering Committee established in Johannesburg was expanded to address the gaping gender and regional inequality and accorded the mandate to implement the Post Accra Action Plan for the Bali Roadmap.

### **The Coalition has gained recognition in African and international levels and has forged strong partnerships with key stakeholders**

such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), UNEP Regional Office for Africa, among other UN Agencies, Regional Economic Integration Communities and National Governments to enhance the Continent's voice in the international dialogue process, as well as driving climate-related policies in Africa. The Alliance also works with partners from both North and South; in recognition of the intricate challenge of climate change crisis brought to the planet and humanity, and in appreciation of the global call for collective action against the biggest challenge facing humanity in the 21st century.

The Alliance has an observer status with the UNFCCC, and represents African Civil Society in the Participants Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) as well as the Steering Committee of ClimDev Africa, a program of the African Development bank, Africa Union Commission and UN Economic Commission for Africa. PACJA members represent the Alliance and affiliate networks in different capacities both at national and regional levels. For the last three years since 2010, PACJA has coordinated and hosted the African CSOs in the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.

PACJA's strategic plan 2011 – 2015 was reviewed early 2013 to incorporate emerging issues in the climate change arena. The strategy received a major boost in 2012 after the partnership discussion between PACJA and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) with the latter providing a four-year support that caters for institutional strengthening, capacity building and engagement in the international climate change dialogue processes. PACJA has reached out to influential civil society of actors with a track record of contributing enormously to reshaping the human consciousness and development paradigms that have positively transformed the society from the Association of World-Council of Churches-allied European Development Agencies (APPRODEV) to Oxfam Federations across the World to Friends of the Earth networks.

## MISSION

To develop and promote pro-poor development and equity based positions relevant for Africa in the International climate change dialogue and related processes.

## VISION

A global environment free from the threat of climate change with sustainable development, equity and justice for all.

## OBJECTIVES

PACJA aims to be an effective African CSO's platform to share information, strategize jointly, coordinate engagement with African governments and other relevant stakeholders, and advocate for fairness and justice in international climate change and sustainable development processes in order to adequately protect the climate while safeguarding human rights and pro-poor development.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- To maintain liaison and facilitation, whether by meetings, correspondence or otherwise with member organizations, and international partners, and to encourage and promote climate-related development initiatives that benefit the members and stakeholders.
- To mobilize and build capacity of stakeholders by offering technical assistance including training and finding out the effectiveness, needs, ways and means of improving the profile of the members, networks and affiliate organizations.
- To improve coordination and information dissemination with African stakeholders around networks around the climate justice.
- To help formulate and promote a strong pro-poor development position to enable African governments and negotiators to effectively articulate and represent the African voice, concerns and perspectives.
- To share advocacy and campaigning experience and coordinate with other like-minded southern networks.
- To team up expertise, support, engage in, conduct and foster research and investigations into climate change and its impact on communities.
- To promote or assist in promotion of any individual Organizations' or Associations' activities affiliated to or having similar objects as PACJA (full) or objectives intended directly or indirectly to benefit the Alliance.

## VALUES

- Transparency and accountability
- Integrity
- Volunteerism and self help
- Gender responsiveness and Inclusiveness
- Professionalism
- Fairness and Justice
- Participatory democracy

# INTRODUCTION

**This document is an analysis of the most thorough survey to date of PACJA members – the most prominent civil society network in Africa addressing climate change.**

## OBJECTIVES

PACJA members are unified by their collective agreement that while climate change is upon us and places our families, communities, ecosystems and species at great risk, with cooperative collective action we can still avert the catastrophic consequences of climate change. PACJA members work together to magnify their shared voice in COP negotiations and their respective regional and national dialogues. However, while PACJA members share much of the same vision, they are also diverse critical thinkers engaged in domestic and global policy advocacy. The objective of our member survey was to capture PACJA members' opinions on both the current state of climate change policy and their organizational capacity to implement mitigation and adaption efforts. The data reflects the diversity of work that PACJA members are doing throughout the continent and their shared policy positions.

The outcomes are presented in three thematic sections: organizational capacity and scope, the trust gap, and policy advocacy and engagement. The section on organizational capacity and scope examines where our members work and what type of programming they implement in their efforts to address climate change. The second section, "the trust gap", examines the trust that PACJA members have that different nations and regions will actually take sufficient action to reduce their GHG emissions, provide sufficient levels of finance for climate change adaptation, and transfer technology to assist countries in development without as many fossil fuels. The final section examines PACJA members' participation in the COP process, their support for different policy directions, and their opinions of the use of fossil fuels for continued development.

## DATA

This data comes from the 2016 PACJA member survey of civil society actors throughout the continent. All current members were recruited by email. Each PACJA member received an initial email request and if they had not yet responded, a second email during March and April of 2016 requesting their participation. Surveys and emails were provided in both English and French. The confidential survey was designed and implemented using the Qualtrics survey web platform and took approximately 30 minutes to complete. The response rate was 23.4% representing 36 countries.

## SECTION 1:

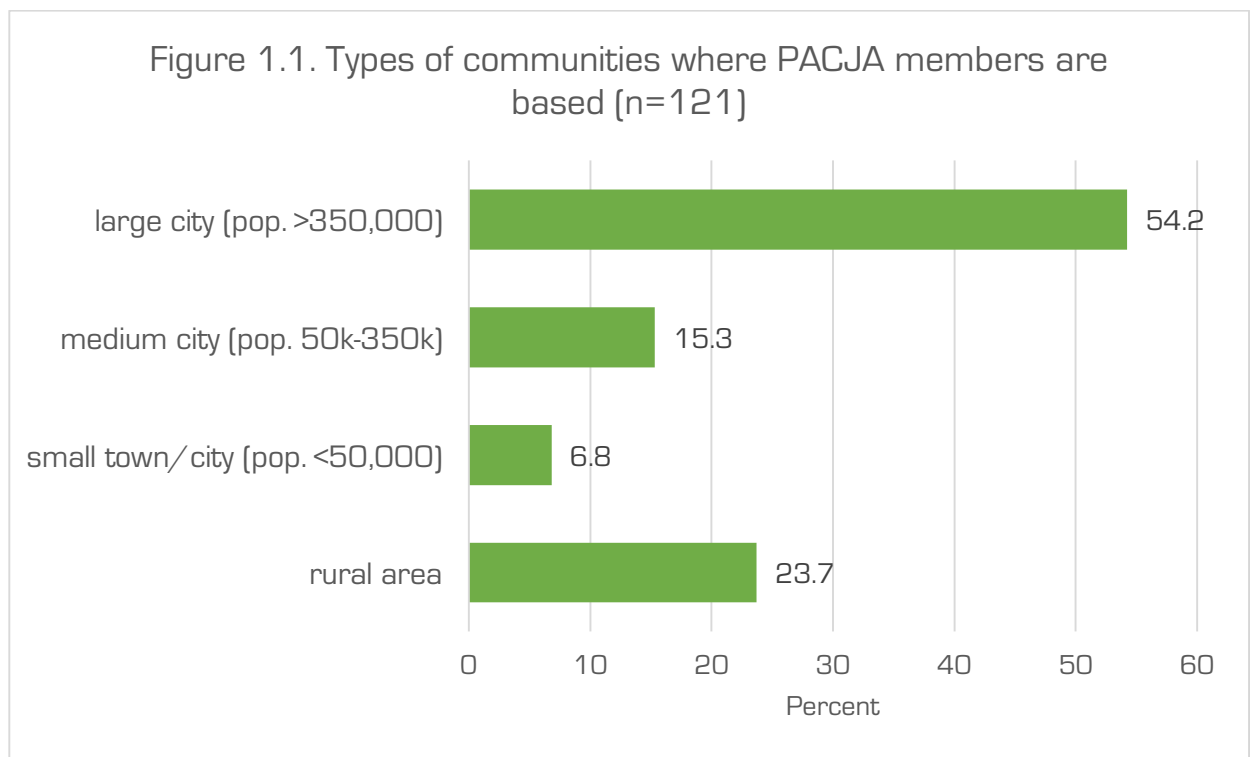
# CAPACITY AND SCOPE

**PACJA members are on the front lines of tackling climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and advocacy.**

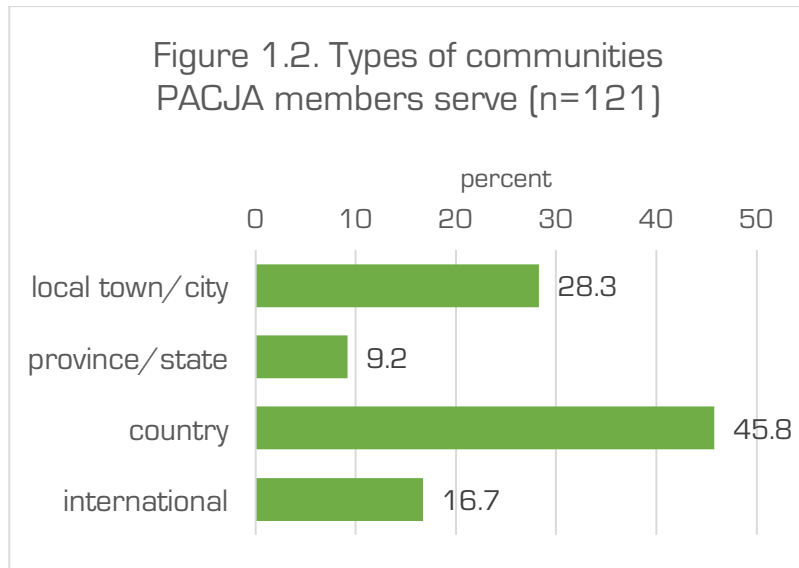
Our members are diverse in many ways, including where they are based, the communities they serve, and the issues they focus on. However, over three-quarters of them [77.1%] indicate that the communities they work with have already been negatively impacted by climate change either a great deal or quite a lot.

## WHERE THEIR WORK IS BASED

While most [54.2%] PACJA members are headquartered in the large metropolitan areas of their respective nations, nearly a quarter [23.7%] are base in rural areas.

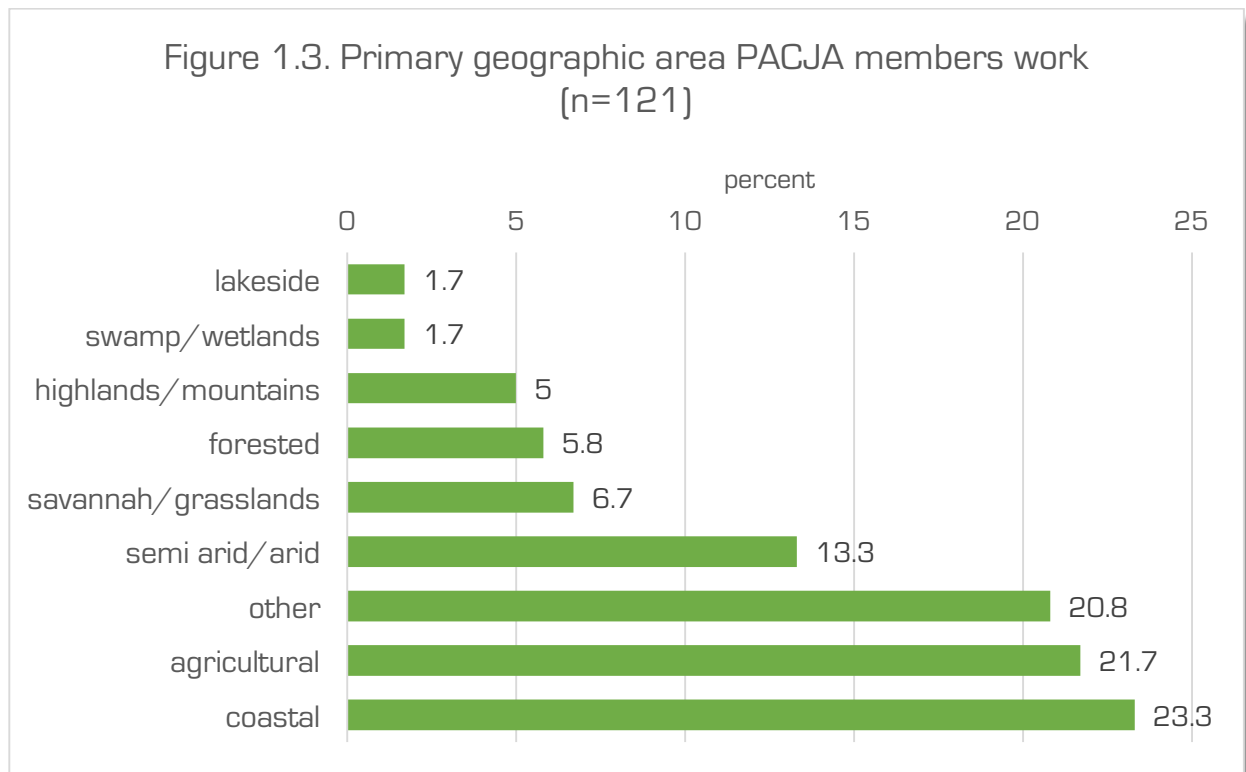


## THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE



In figure 1.2, we see that over a quarter (28.3%) of PACJA members work directly with the immediate community, nearly 10% work within a particular province, nearly half (45.8%) work throughout their respective countries, and 16.7% work internationally. While working across a diversity of geographic areas, PACJA members predominantly work in agricultural and coastal areas (see figure 1.3 below).

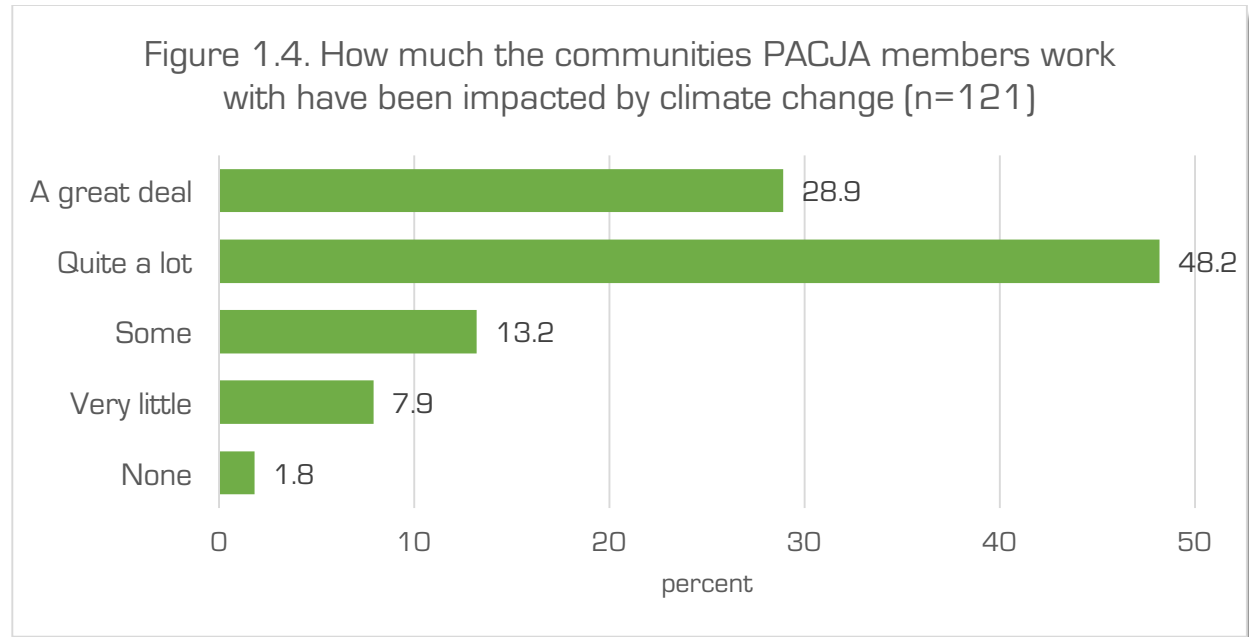
## PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY OF THE AREA SERVED





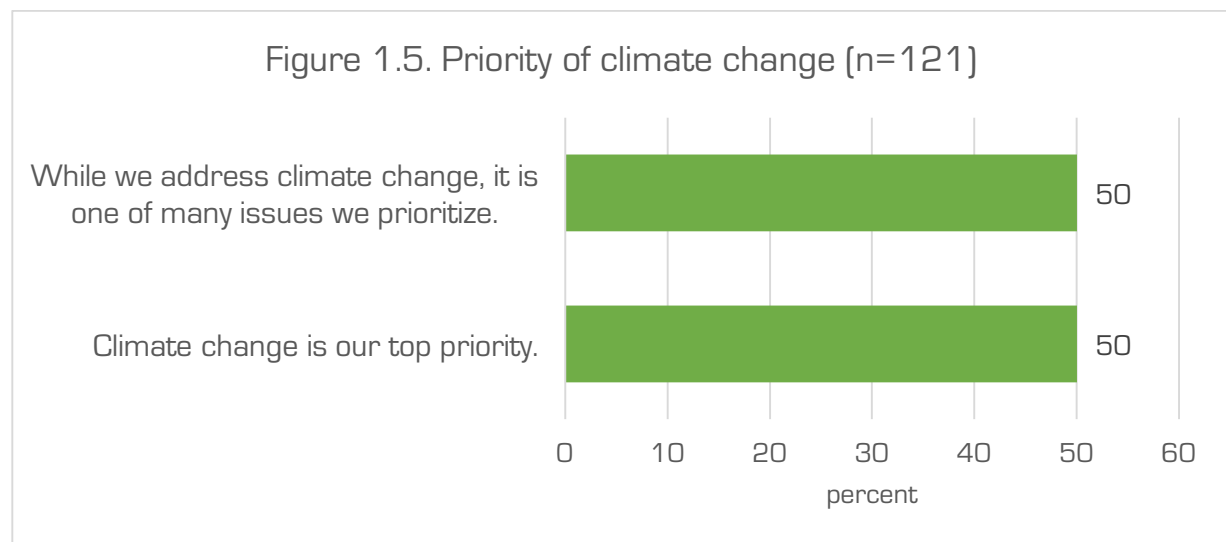
## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

A vast majority (77.1%) of PACJA members indicate that the communities they work with are already impacted by climate change either a great deal or quite a lot. Only 10% said that the communities are currently impacted very little to none (see figure 1.4 below).



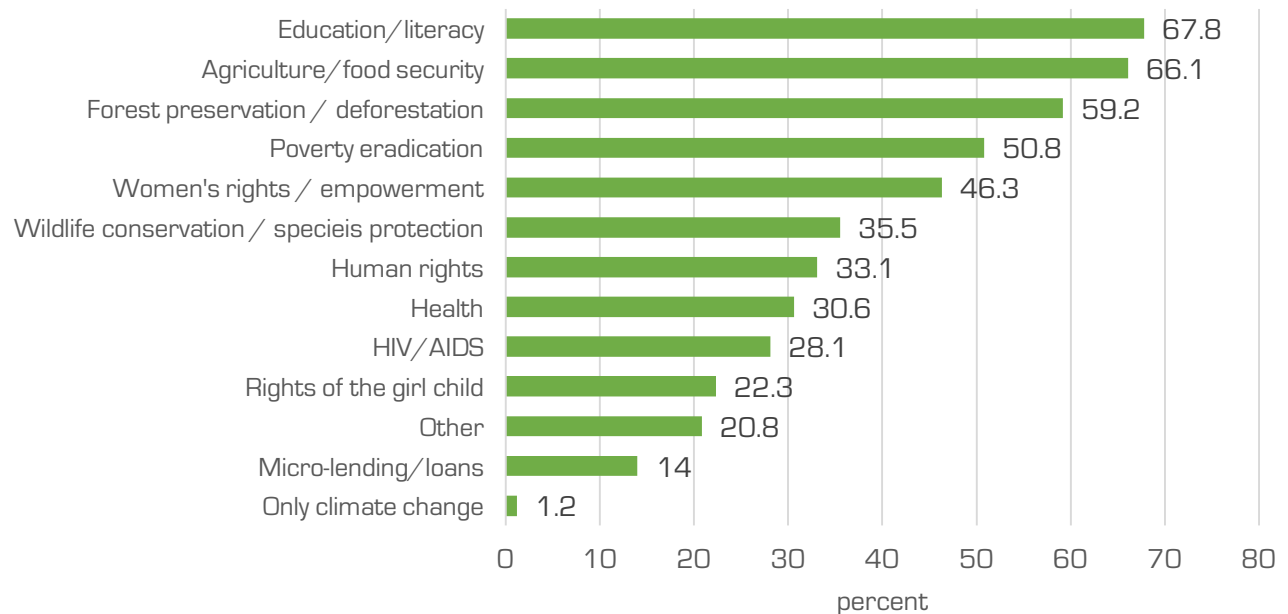
## ISSUES ADDRESSED

PACJA member organizations are evenly split regarding climate change being their top priority. As seen in figure 1.5 below, exactly half indicated that climate change is their top priority and the other half indicated that it is one of many issues that they prioritize.



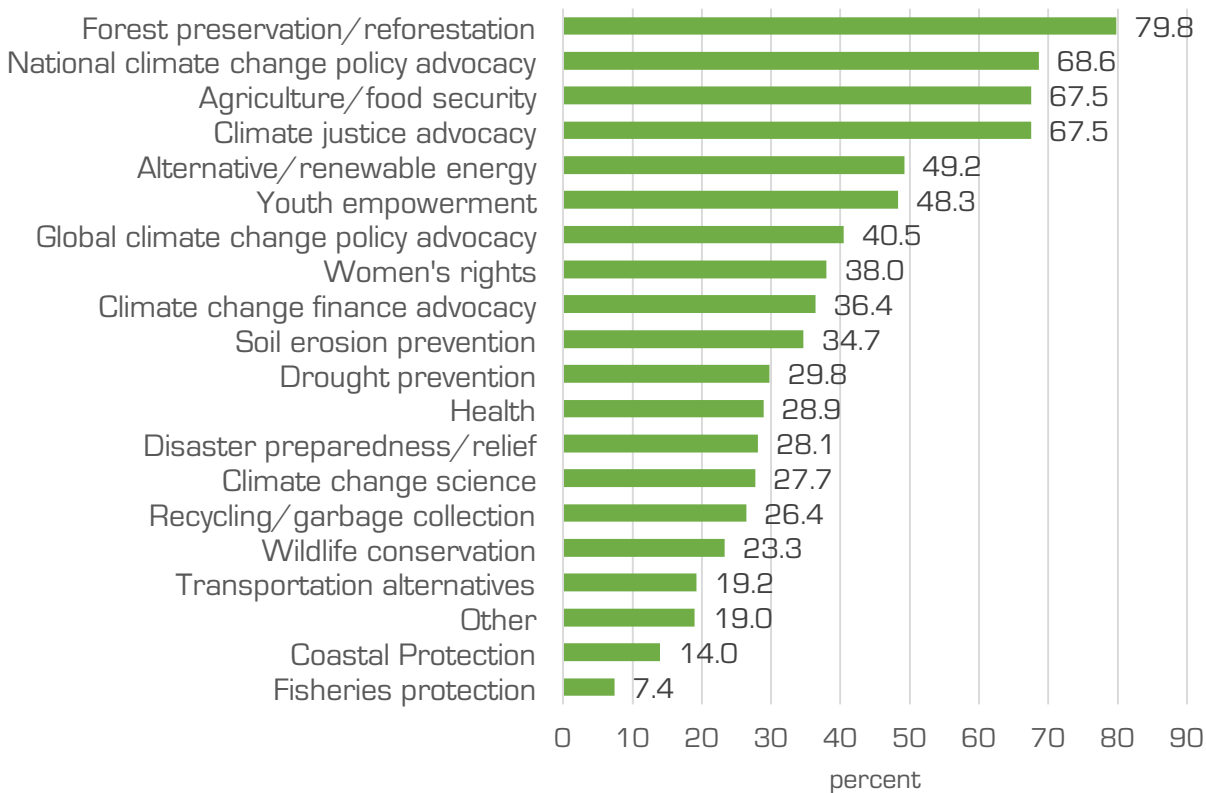
Climate change makes the already vulnerable even more at risk. Most PACJA members integrate climate change programming into numerous other issues that challenge their communities. In addition to climate change, two-thirds of them also address education and literacy issues. Another two-thirds report providing programming on agriculture and food security issues. Almost 60% address forest preservation and deforestation, while half directly tackle poverty eradication. Only 1.2% of PACJA members report only addressing climate change and not any other issue.

Figure 1.6. Other than climate change, which issues do PACJA members address in their organizational programming (n=121)



According to the responses summarized in figure 1.7 on the following page, in the past 12 months (from March/April of 2016), PACJA members have conducted programming on a diversity of issues, including mitigation, adaptation, and advocacy. Among the top issues include programming on the mitigation efforts of forest preservation (79.8%), advocating for national climate change policy (68.6%), adaptation-focused agriculture and food security (67.5%), and climate justice advocacy (67.5%). About half had also conducted specific programming on renewable energy (mitigation) and about half on youth empowerment. Only 27.7% had conducted climate change science in the last twelve months and less than a quarter focused on wildlife conservation.

Figure 1.7. Conducted programming on the following issues in the last 12 months (n=121)



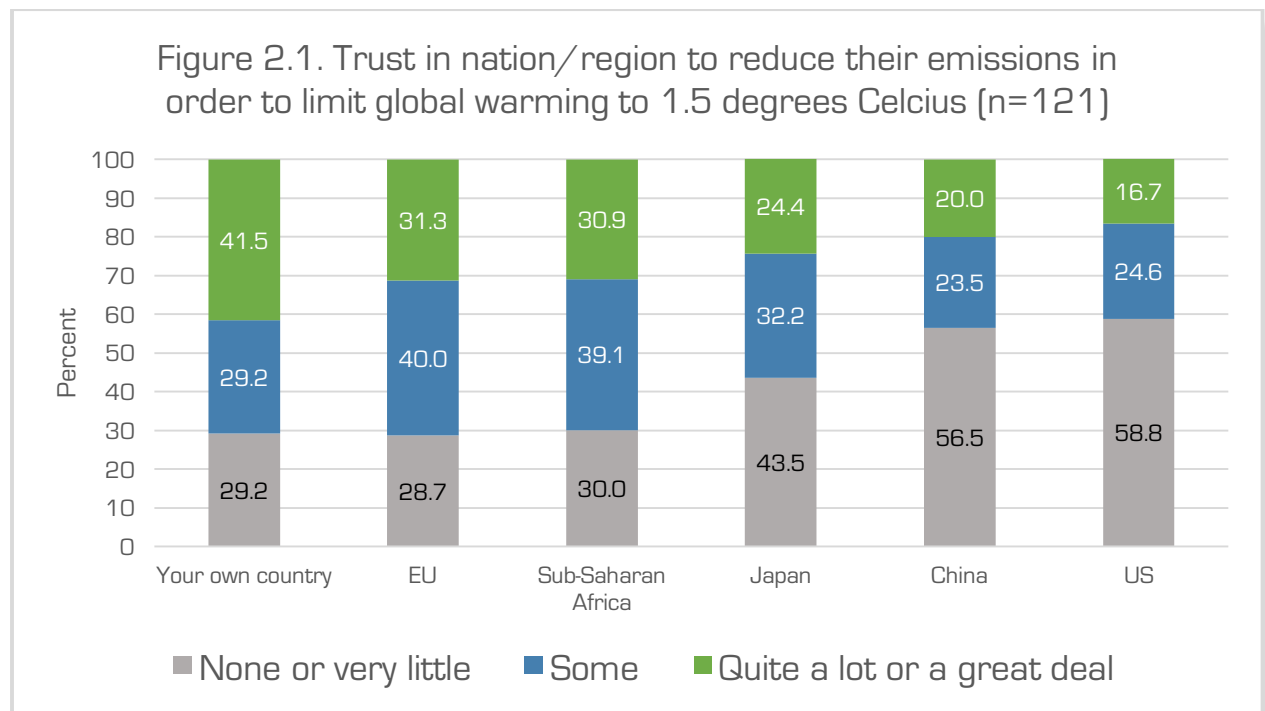
## SECTION 2:

## THE TRUST GAP

**To successfully address climate change, we need to not only close the emissions gap but also an ongoing “trust gap”**

between domestic civil society actors addressing climate change on the African continent and the advanced industrialized nations. The heavy emitting nations need to make greater commitments and show demonstrable action to reduce emissions, provide sufficient and new finance, and transfer appropriate technology. Trust between state, civil society, and market actors is imperative to foster the cooperative collective action that is necessary for humanity to successfully avoid catastrophic warming.

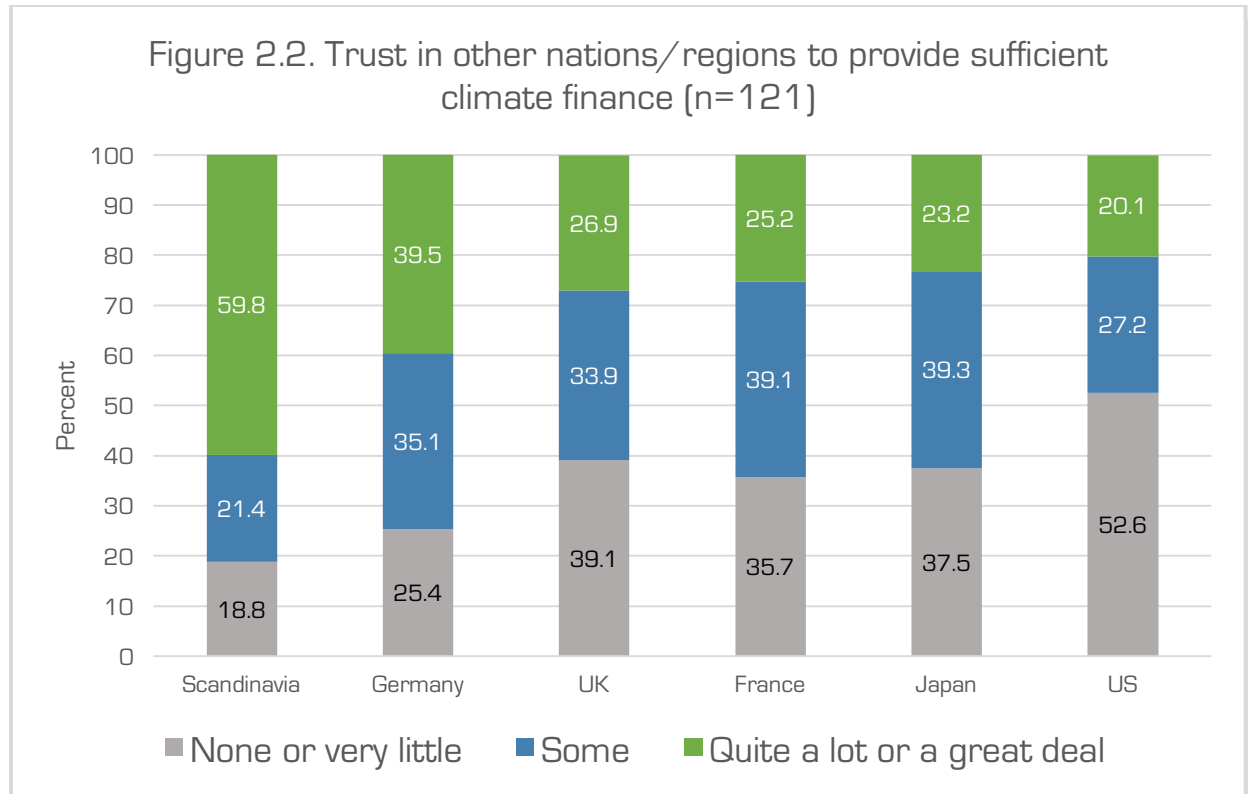
## EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS



In Figure 2.1, we see that a majority of PACJA members have low levels of trust for major emitting nations or regions, and trust of their own countries or the Sub-Saharan African region as a whole to sufficiently reduce emissions in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius fails to reach a majority. Four out of ten respondents (41.5%) indicated that they trusted their own nations “quite a lot or a great deal” to reduce emissions. Of the high-emitting nations/regions included in the survey, the EU received the highest level of trust to reduce emissions with 31.3% of PACJA members surveyed indicating quite a lot or a great deal of trust. China and the US were afforded the least amount of trust, with only 20% and 16.7% of PACJA members surveyed respectively indicating they had high levels of trust for the nations.

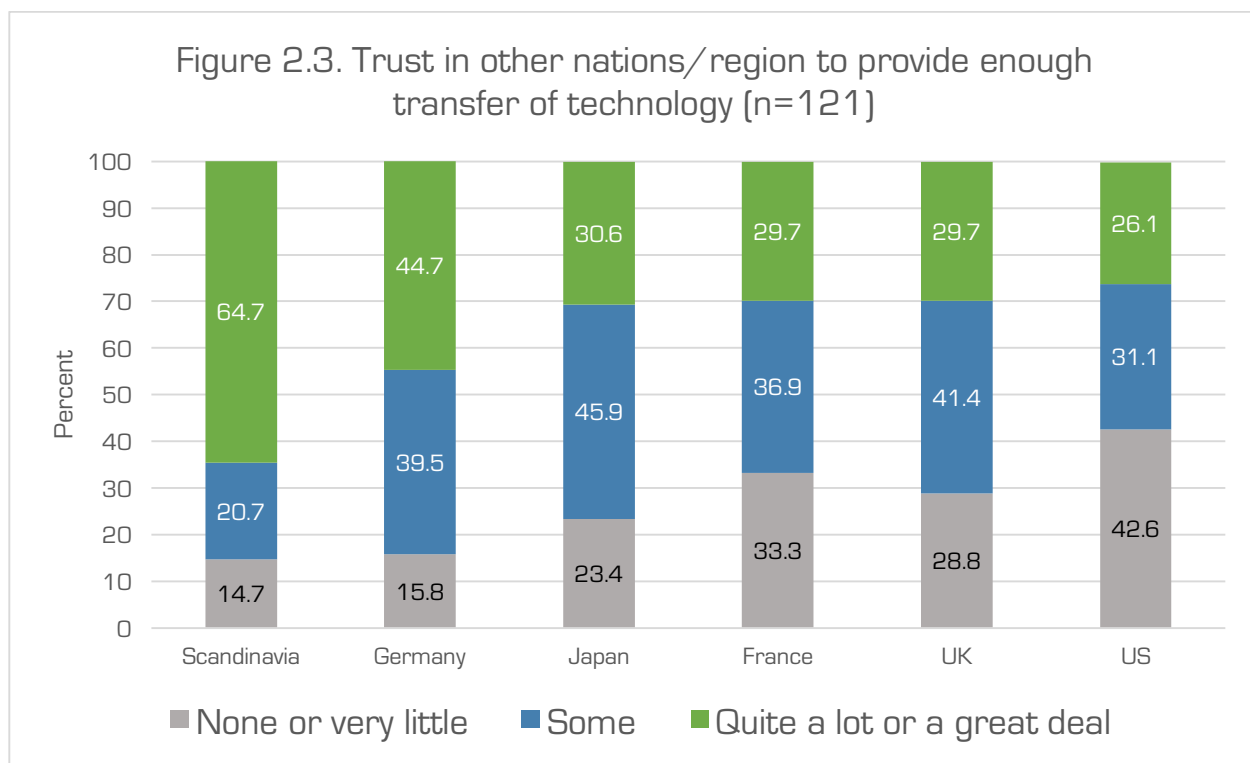
## NEW AND SUFFICIENT FINANCE

Figure 2.2, below, shows that there are slightly higher levels of trust regarding the provision of new and sufficient finance to help nations adapt to climate change compared to the sufficient reduction of emissions in Figure 1. Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) is trusted quite a lot or a great deal by a majority (59.8%) of PACJA members to provide finance. Germany also is relatively trusted, although not by a majority (39.5%). The UK, France, Japan and the US, all receive low levels of trust from PACJA members. Only 1 in 5 indicate high levels of trust of the US to provide sufficient climate finance.



## TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY

Figure 2.3, below, analyzes the level of trust regarding the transfer of technology from highly advanced industrial nations and regions in order to sufficiently reduce emissions. Similar patterns of trust as seen in the provision of finance are evident. Again, Scandinavia is the most trusted region, with 64.7% of PACJA members reporting quite a lot or a great deal of trust that Scandinavia will provide sufficient transfers. The US remains a laggard, with only 26.1% of PACJA members affording the nation high levels of trust. More than half have very little to no trust of the US in this regard.



Trust is essential in international relations. Successfully addressing climate change on a global scale requires nations and civil society actors to work together to implement mitigation and adaptation projects at every level from the local community to the transnational. The existing “trust gap” needs to be closed through concrete actions by high emitting nations led by the state.

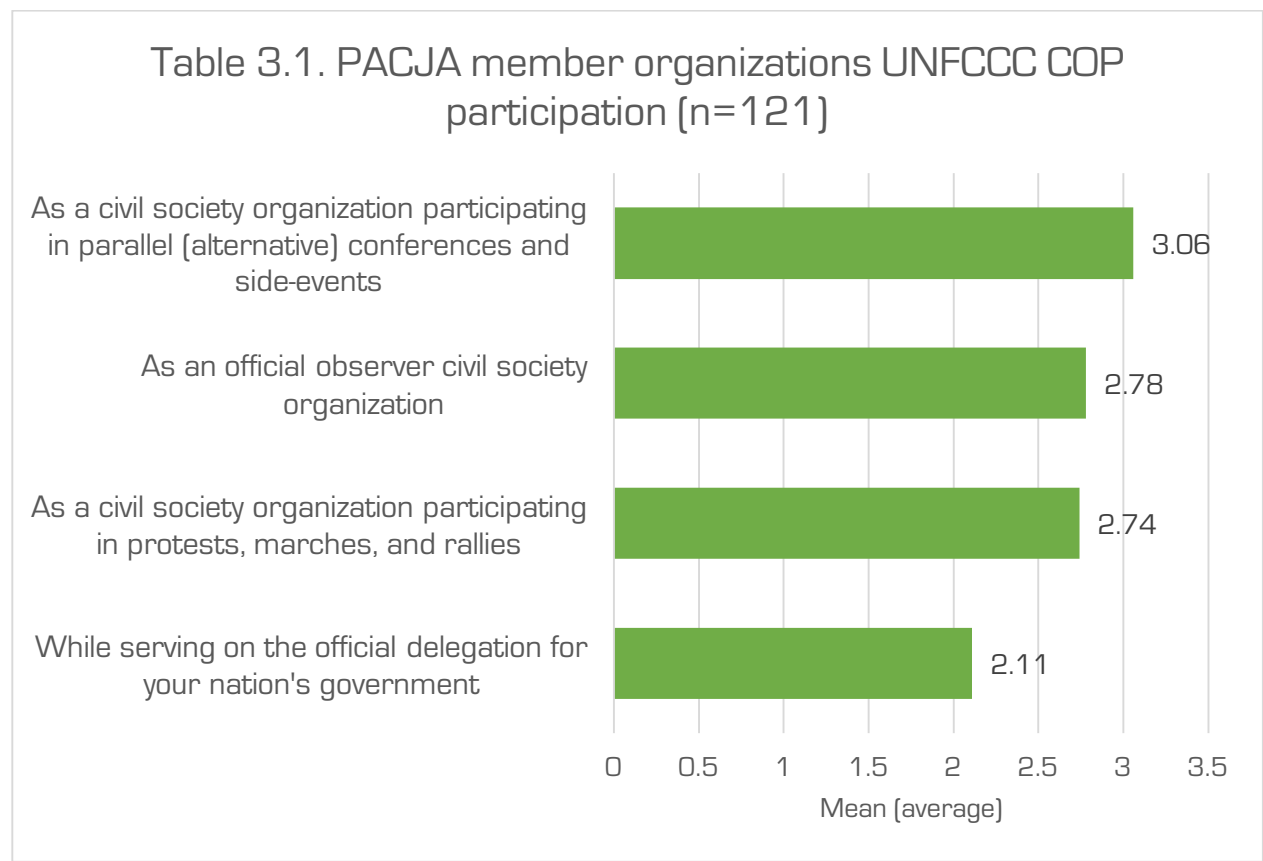
## SECTION 3:

## POLICY ADVOCACY &amp; ENGAGEMENT

**PACJA members are engaged in policy advocacy and analysis at the global and national level.**

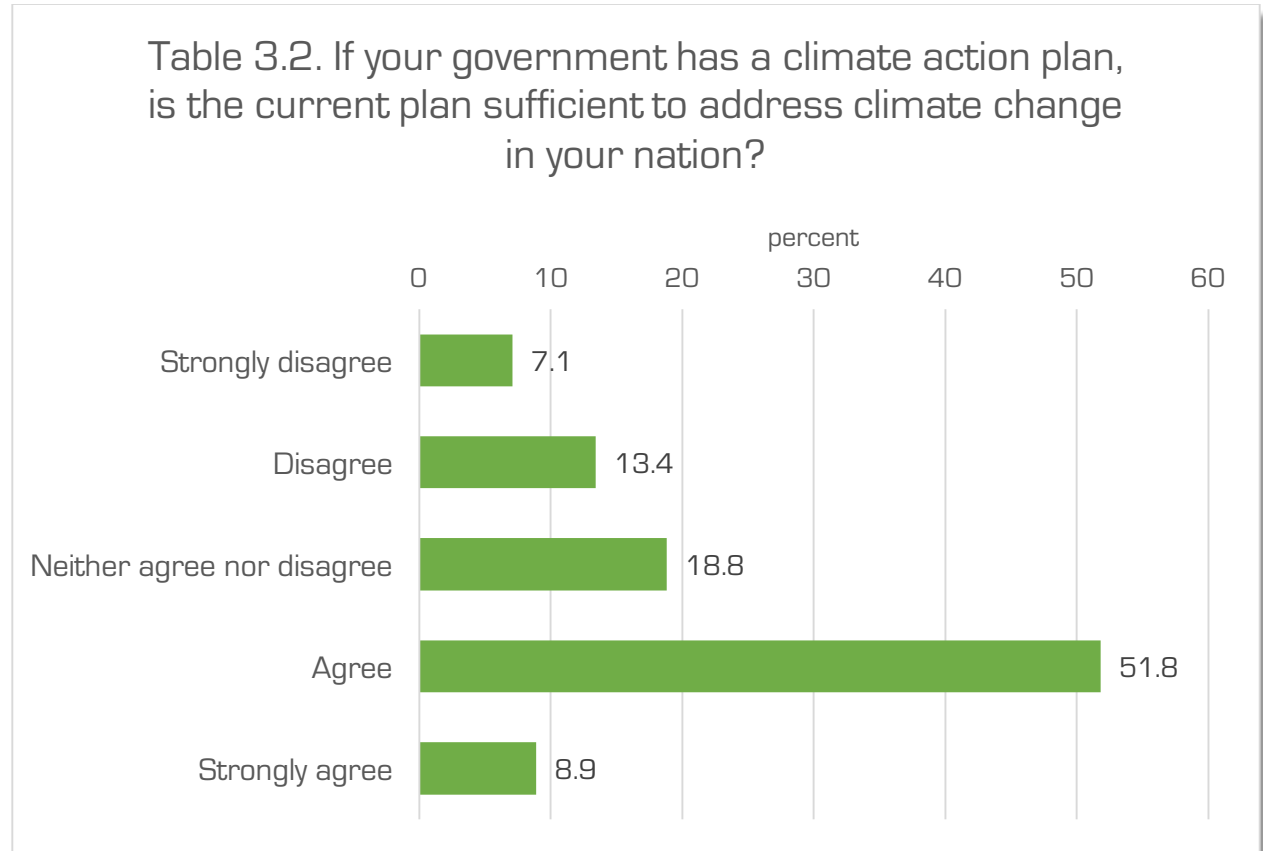
**DIVERSE FORMS OF COP PARTICIPATION**

PACJA members are engaged in the UNFCCC COP process. However, member organizations participate in the process in different ways. On average, PACJA member organizations have attended 3 COP meetings as civil society members participating in parallel conferences and side events. On average, they have attended less than 3 COP meetings as official civil society observers. Even fewer have participated in protests and rallies. On average, PACJA member organizations have only served as part of their official national delegations during two COP meetings. In 2015, 53.5% of the PACJA member organizations had a representative, in some capacity, in Paris for COP21.



## SUPPORT FOR CURRENT NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS

National climate action plans are in place where 95.7% of PACJA members reside. Generally, a majority of PACJA members (60.7% either agree or strongly agree) have confidence that these national climate action plans are sufficient to address climate change in their countries. Only 20.5% of PACJA members that responded to the survey disagree or strongly disagree that their nation's climate action plan is sufficient.

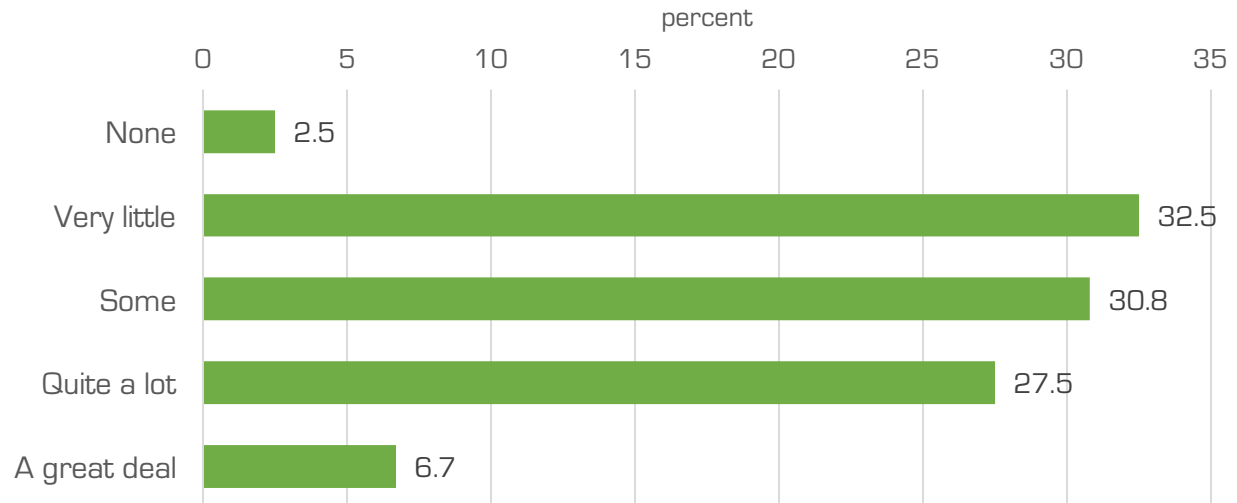


## MIXED TRUST OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

While the majority find their national climate action plans sufficient, there are lower levels of trust that PACJA members' national governments can effectively utilize any international climate finance from advanced industrialized countries. In Table 3.3 below, we see that over a third (35%) of respondents have very little or no trust in the national governments abilities to handle climate finance, nearly another third (30.8%) have some trust, and another third (34.2%) have quite a lot or a great deal of trust in their national governments to effectively use climate finance from international donors.



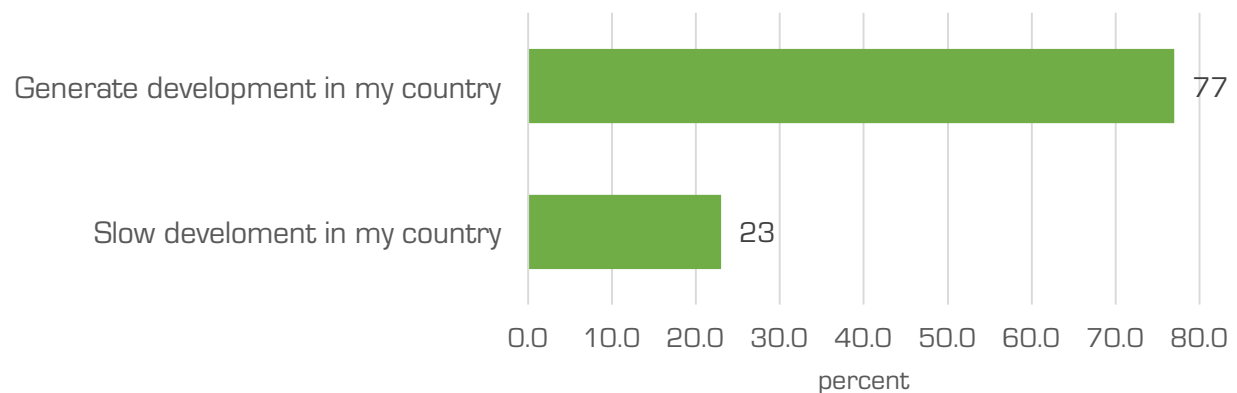
Table 3.3. How much do you trust your national government to effectively utilize any climate finance from advanced industrialized nations?



### OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

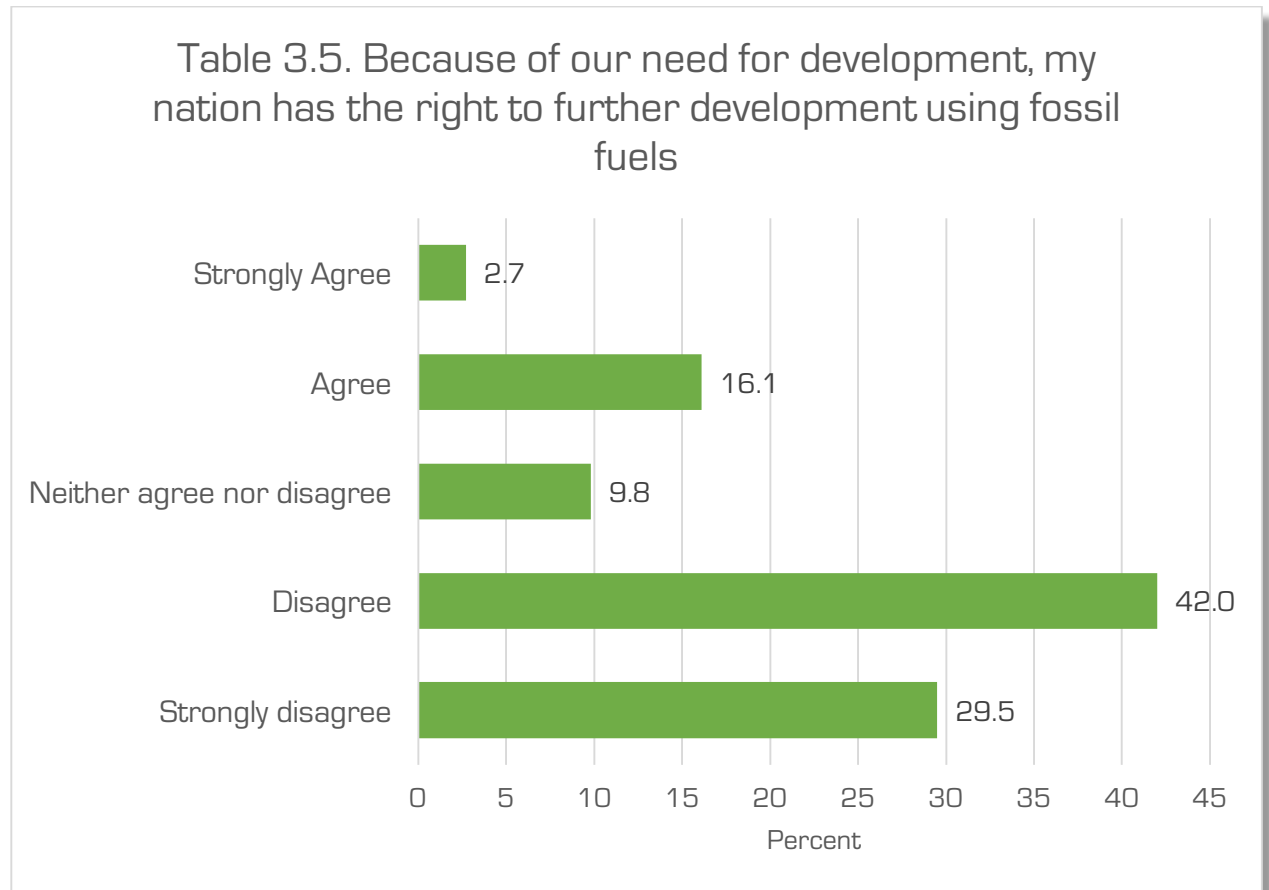
Over three-quarters of PACJA members surveyed indicated that they believe addressing climate change will generate development in their countries, while just under a quarter indicated they thought it would slow development. Fears of “arrested development” are not dominant among PACJA members as the world moves forward with mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Table 3.4. Addressing climate change will likely...



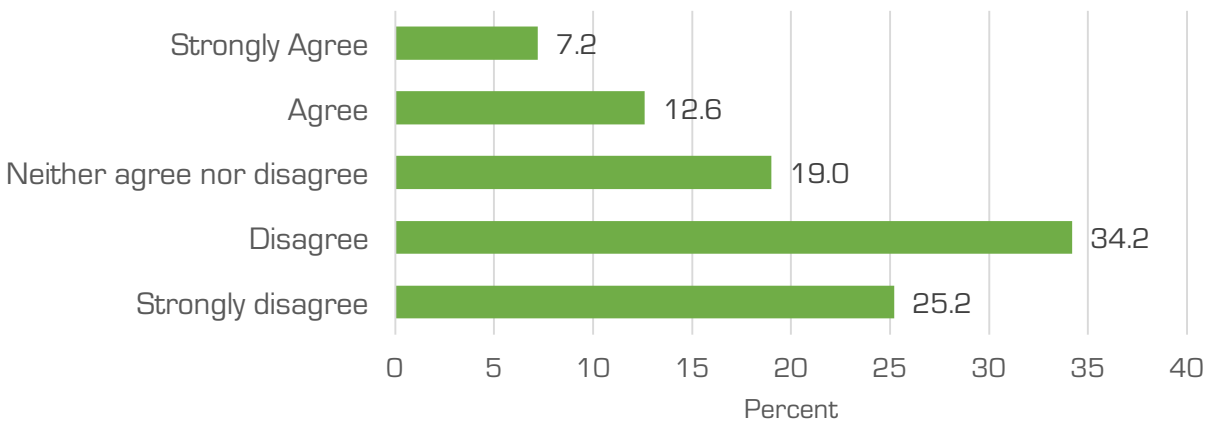
## FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT

Table 3.5 and 3.6 below explore the continued use of or development of fossil fuels for the purpose of national development. In Table 3.5, we see that 45% disagree and 29.5% strongly disagree (for a total of 71.5%) that the use of fossil fuels should be a primary avenue for development. Mitigation of emissions seems to be an uncompromising priority for a strong majority of PACJA members. Just under a fifth (18.8%) agree or strongly agree that their respective nations have the right to use fossil fuels to further their development. About 10% neither agree nor disagree.



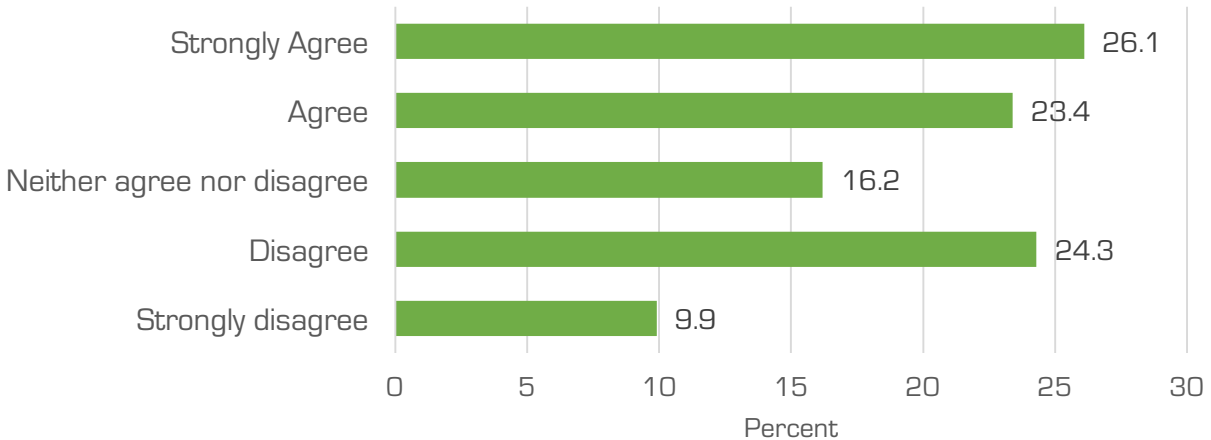
A generally similar pattern is evident in Table 6 below. The question is slightly different and addresses fossil fuel resources discovered within national borders. Over half (59.4%) disagree or strongly disagree that their nations should develop any fossil fuel resources discovered within their borders. Nearly 20% agree or strongly agree that such resources should be utilized in order to help their country develop. Interestingly, when those fossil fuel resources may be available within their own borders, nearly twice as many as above (19.0% vs. 9.8%) neither agree nor disagree that fossil fuel resources within their borders should be developed.

Table 3.6. For development, fossil fuels discovered within our borders should be developed



However, when the topic is more specifically “poverty reduction” [see Table 3.7 below] compared to the more general “development” posed in the previous questions, a near majority (49.5%) of PACJA respondents agree or strongly agree that emissions reductions should take a back seat to efforts to reduce poverty. Over a quarter (26.1%) *strongly* agree. That being said, over a third (34.2%) of PACJA respondents disagree or strongly disagree that poverty reduction should be prioritized over emissions reductions.

Table 3.7. Prioritize poverty reduction over emissions reductions



## SCOPE OF REFORM

How much economic, political, and societal change will be required to successfully address global climate change? The results, in Table 3.8 below, indicate that PACJA members strongly believe that a radical shift away from capitalism is the best way to address climate change. Over three quarters (77.7%) of respondents supported this position compared to less than a quarter (22.3%) who reported that global warming is best addressed *within* a system of capitalism.

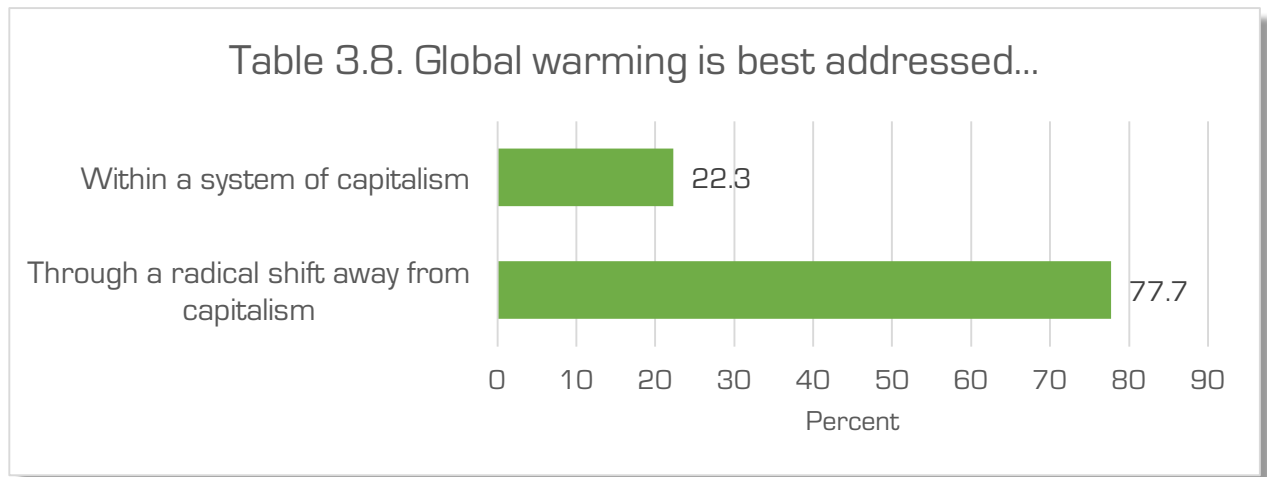
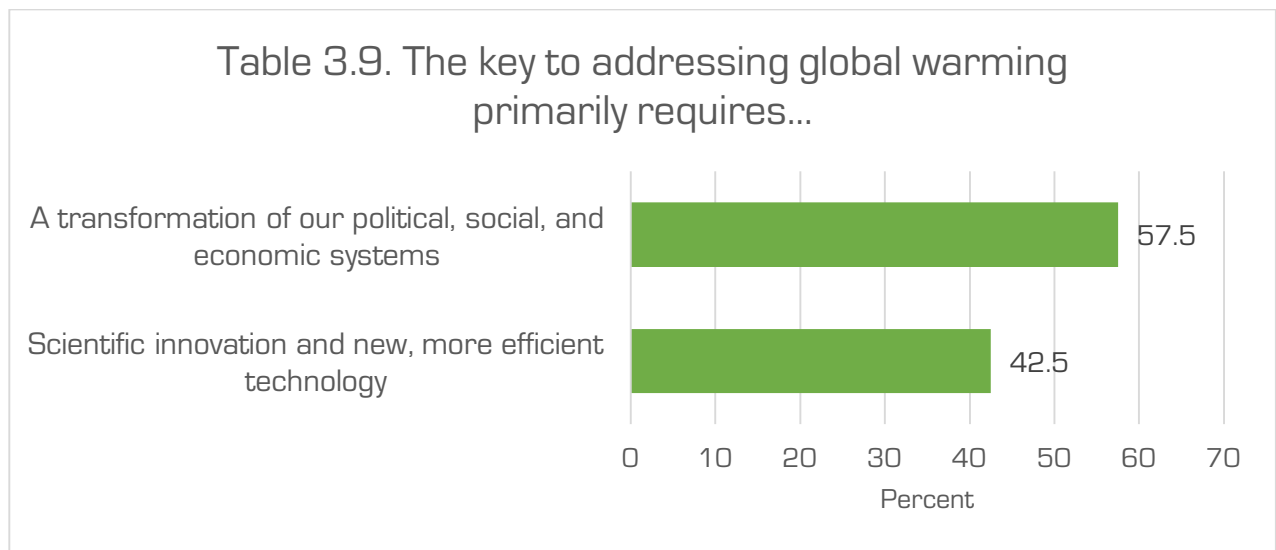
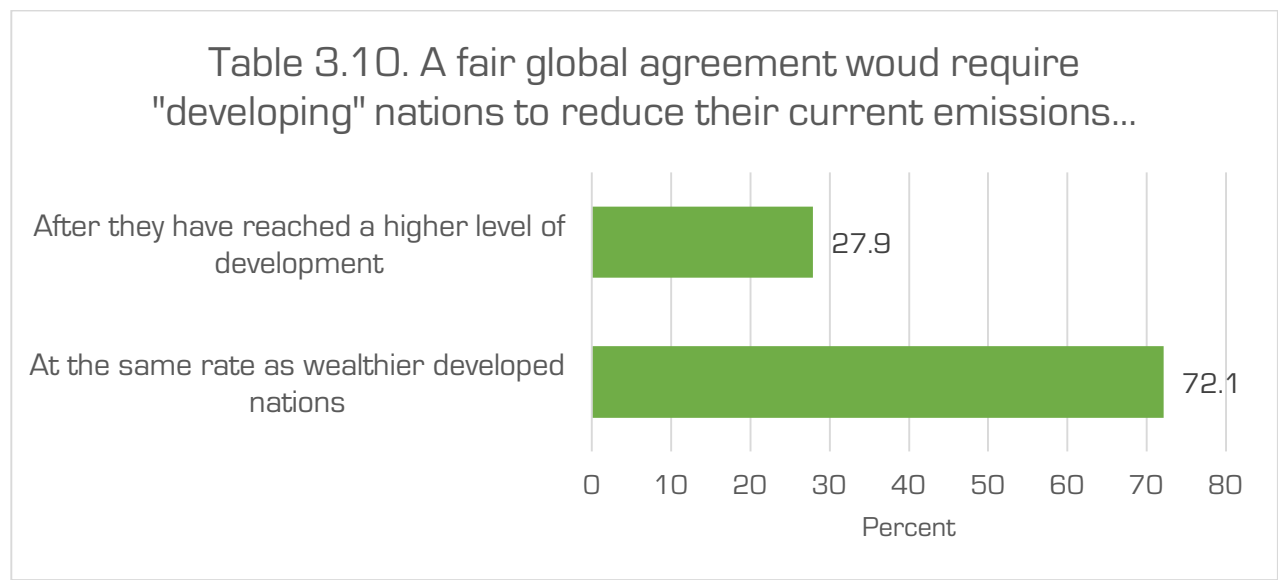


Table 3.9 shows a closer split in opinion among PACJA members regarding whether the key to addressing global warming is a transformation of the political, social and economic systems or scientific innovation and new, more efficient technology. The majority (57.5%) feel that more systematic change is in order, while 42.5% felt that science and technology would contribute more to addressing the issue.



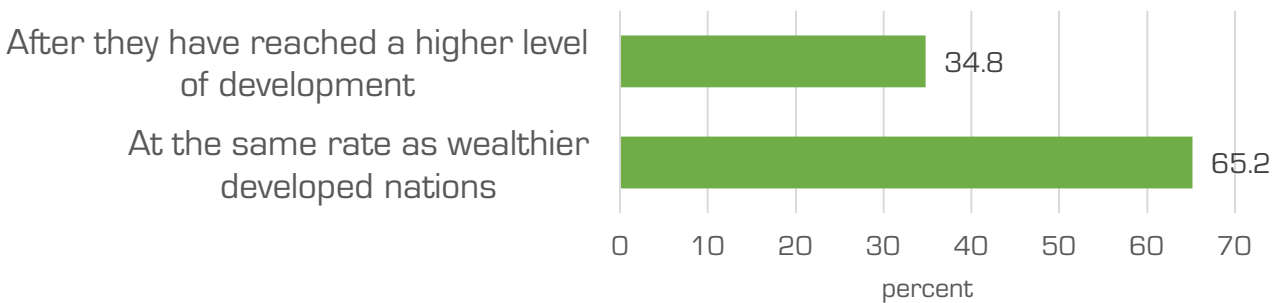
## FAIRNESS IN GLOBAL EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

From the original UNFCCC agreement, nations varied abilities to address and responsibilities for the current problems of global warming have been a consideration, albeit a source of debate among negotiators and civil society organizations. Should developing nations be required to pursue a more sustainable path of development and also be required to reduce their GHG emissions at the same rate as wealthier developed nations or should they be given access to fossil-fuel-driven development prior to committing to reductions? While this is often pitted as a North versus South disagreement, with developing nations of the Global South wanting access to development, these survey results show broad support for similar rates of emissions reductions in developing countries among PACJA members. Surprisingly, among survey respondents, nearly three quarters (72.1%) report that a fair global agreement would include provisions requiring developing nations to cut their GHG emissions at the same rate as wealthier developed nations. Only about a quarter of respondents believed that developing nations should develop more first before reducing their GHG emissions rates. This is much stronger support than was evident for prioritizing poverty reduction over emissions cuts evident in Table 3.7, but it is aligned with the high rates of rejection of using fossil fuels to develop further seen in Tables 3.5 and 3.6.



Support for emissions reductions at similar rates as wealthier developed nations is also seen when asked specifically about China. Table 3.11, below, shows a strong majority (65.2%) of surveyed PACJA members support China reducing their emissions at the same rate as developed nations, rather than waiting until they have reached a higher level of development. Although, it is interesting to note that the support for emissions reductions only after higher levels of development is about seven percentage points higher for China (34.8%) than it was for "developing nations" in general (27.9%) as seen above.

Table 3.11. A fair global agreement would require China to reduce their current emissions...



PACJA members are active at the national and global level. Just over half of them had a representative in Paris at COP21. PACJA members prioritize national and global emissions reductions, even if that means developing countries need to reduce GHGs at the same rate as wealthier countries and their own nations forego development via fossil fuels. They are optimistic that addressing climate change will generate development in their countries. Their nations have climate action plans and PACJA members largely believe these plans are sufficient. However, PACJA members have low levels of trust of their domestic states to properly handle large amounts of climate finance.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Overwhelmingly, PACJA members report that the communities that they work with have already been negatively impacted by climate change.**

PACJA members serve diverse geographic populations and are on the front lines of addressing climate change in their respective communities and nations. Just over half are based in large cities where internet access is more accessible and infrastructure more developed. However, for many, the scope of their service expands well beyond where they are headquartered. Almost half serve people and communities throughout their nations, while just over a quarter confine their work to a more local community. Coastal areas and agriculture regions are the most prominent geographic topographies where PACJA members work. Concerns about climate change causing rising sea levels and less predictable precipitation patterns which is detrimental to food supplies, is imaginably influential in generating the pattern of where PACJA members work.

Climate change is just one of many issues that developing communities face. This is reflected in half of the PACJA members reporting that while they address climate change, it is only one of many issues they prioritize. The other issues that receive programming attention from PACJA members include education and literacy, agriculture and food security, forest preservation, and poverty reduction. These issues were part of 50% or more of PACJA members' programming portfolios.

In the past year, PACJA members have most prominently focused their climate change efforts on national policy advocacy, climate justice advocacy, alternative energy, global climate change policy advocacy, and climate change finance advocacy. Smaller numbers of members reported working on disaster preparedness, climate change science, recycling, transportation alternatives, and coastal protection.

There remains great potential for more mitigation and adaptation best-practices to be distributed widely and rapidly through the existing PACJA network. Based on the diversity of communities and issues that members work on, they are a rich network of actors. As members develop successful programs in their communities, these practices could spread rapidly through the PACJA Secretariat and beyond. The scope of the network also has the potential for more international non-governmental organizations to spread knowledge and resources widely and rapidly.

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**Now that there is a working global climate agreement in effect, the Paris Agreement, nations and civil society need to work together to successfully implement the agreement's lofty goals,** including limiting average global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and mobilizing \$100 billion in climate finance by 2020. This will not be a simple task and one of the barriers to the needed cooperation is a lack of trust. A long history of exploitation and more recent history of delayed GHG reductions have not generated a great deal of trust between the Global South and the heavily industrialized Global North. PACJA members expressed low levels of trust that the US and China would reduce their emissions in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. PACJA members also reported little to no trust that the US would provide sufficient climate finance or transfers of technology. However, PACJA members expressed high levels of trust that Scandinavian countries would provide sufficient finance and transfers of technology. Generally, PACJA members were less trusting of all regions and nations regarding their commitment to reduce emissions compared to the trust levels for transfers of technology and finance.

**In order for trust to be restored (or developed in the first place), large emitters, like the US, China, and the EU need to show consistent, measurable progress in reducing GHG emissions.** The initial commitments made under the Paris Agreement certainly need to be met. With one of two major political parties in the US still denying the scientific consensus on the causes and severity of climate change, it is unlikely that the US will do this, at least not with the necessary consistency needed to establish trust by other nations and civil society organizations. As President Obama leaves office and (as of this writing) we still do not know if the next US president will continue to address climate change or rescind US commitments to the Paris Agreement as candidate Donald Trump has indicated he would do. The election will be important to the world, not just the US.

COP22 in Morocco will be an opportunity for the US and other nations to take action that backs up their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion in climate finance by 2020, just over three years away. The more details provided and mechanisms established for providing this finance, the more likely the Global South will trust that this finance will actually materialize.

**Lastly, in order to garner greater levels of trust from African civil society, all the major emitters need to demonstrate a willingness to make their National Determined Contributions to emissions reductions even more ambitious.**

Several analyses of the first round of NDCs indicate that those levels of emissions will more likely result in a 3 degree temperature rise, rather than meeting the 1.5 degree commitment made in Paris.

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PACJA members are actively engaged in UNFCCC COP meetings, but in diverse forms. Over half of them had a representative of their organization at COP21 in Paris. They support their domestic climate change plans, but are somewhat doubtful that their governments can effectively utilize international climate finance. and are optimistic about development continuing while also addressing climate change. If the promised climate finance materializes, global and domestic mechanisms will need to be in place to ensure that planning for the funds is broadly inclusive of multiple stake holders and the distribution of the funds is transparent. Accountability at the domestic level is equally important to ensure that finance effectively addresses the intended adaptation and mitigation efforts.

PACJA members largely prioritize emissions reductions over fossil-fuel-led development, even if that means not utilizing fossil fuel resources discovered within their countries. But when asked specifically, PACJA members want poverty reduction prioritized over emissions reductions. There is a distinction between general development and poverty reduction and the relationship to climate change mitigation. That being said, the scope of change PACJA members imagine that it will take to successfully address climate change is large. The vast majority believe something as significant as a radical shift away from capitalism is needed. This is more than just a few environmental reforms under the current system. The majority see transforming the current economic, political and social systems as the key to addressing climate change. The international community can support the evident focus on emissions reductions, even in developing countries, by increasing their technology transfer and support for up-scaled alternative energy.

As the UNFCCC process continues to debate the meaning and consequences of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, PACJA members seem more committed to global emissions reductions with everyone playing a part, rather than developing countries reaching a certain level of development before reducing their GHG emissions levels. Similarly, PACJA members believe China should reduce their emissions at the same rate as developed nations. **Such support for collective, global emissions reductions, should be seen as a good faith effort within developing nations - an effort that should be reciprocated with similarly bold support for dramatic emissions reductions by civil society and states of the Global North.**

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